

**DEAL ME IN**

**Pips, Paint And Pushka**



Mark Pilarski

Dear Mark,  
In one of your archived columns on your website (<http://markpilarski.com>) you stated the following: "In the casinos I have worked in, we used Bee Playing cards manufactured by the U. S. Playing Card Co. of Cincinnati, Ohio. When you cracked the seal of their cards, you faced the pips and paint of the spade suit directly, not the hinny side. In order from ace, two through the king, diamonds, clubs and hearts follow spades." What exactly did you mean by "pips and paint."

John P.

Paint, John, is a face card, i.e., a jack, king, or queen. At a blackjack table, you'll occasionally hear a player yell out when he doubles down with an 11; "Let's see some paint."

A pip is a suit spot (heart, diamond, spade or club) on the face of a card. Each face card has four pips; one at each corner (two) just outside the square border and just under the J, K, or Q representing the card's rank. The other two are within the border, alongside each head.

Acies have three pips, one pip directly in the center of the card and one each just under the A at each end. As for the 2-10 cards, each has two more pips than the number that represents its rank. For instance, for a 10 of spades, you'll find the rank total of 10 pips in the center area of the card, plus one more pip (two total) under the rank number on each end.

As a former pit boss, to thwart card counters, I also counted down the deck, but from a distance. And although from across the pit it can be hard to distinguish the corner number 5, you can become quite skillful at reading the pip patterns on the central part of the 2 - 10 cards with just a little practice.

Dear Mark,  
I believe only you could probably answer this question as you're Polish and you know a thing or two about gambling. What does the Polish word "pushka" mean, and how does it relate to gambling?

Stanley G.

A wordsmith I'm not, knowing a thing or two is questionable, but, Stanley, let me take a whack at it. Here goes.

The first time I heard the word pushka was while dealing blackjack; a player used it when we pushed on an 18. The player said it

was Polish for us having the same hand. Although my parents spoke Polish around the house, it was only the curse words related to cleaning my room that I retained, but I figured encyclopedic mom would be a good etymological source to clarify pushka. But no, she said, a push, as in meaning "the same kind", is rodzaj in Polish. So that didn't square.

Years later, I actually came across that word once again, but this time it was related to the game of poker. A poker dictionary said that a pushka was an arrangement between two or more players to share part of the pots they win. But more specifically, it was defined as a box-like container where shared chips are placed. Pushka partners could place a certain amount from each won pot into the container, and split the contents later. That dictionary stated the word pushka supposedly comes from the Polish word for box via a Yiddish translation.

Well, Stanley, that sort of flies because "box" in Polish is puszka (but with z in lieu of h); defined properly, a tin can or a poor box. As for the Yiddish interpretation of the word, a quick Google search acquainted me with the fact that there is a tradition amongst Jews to place pushka (h instead of z) charity boxes in their home, office and children's bedrooms, where individuals can drop coins in on a daily basis.

Of course, Stanley, we all know that casinos have those same pushka "charity" boxes under each gaming table. Your hard-earned money finds its way into those boxes every time you change-up paper into casino chips.

Na zdrowie ---To your good health.

**Gambling Wisdom of the Week:**  
"Over an infinite amount of time everyone holds the same cards. Unfortunately, none of us live to experience an infinite number of hands."

*!Russell Fox & Scott T. Harker, Mastering No-Limit Hold'em*

Got a question about gambling? Write to: Deal Me In, P.O. Box 1234, Traverse City, Michigan 49685 - e-mail: [pilarski@markpilarski.com](mailto:pilarski@markpilarski.com)  
• To order Mark Pilarski's "Hooked on Winning" audio cassettes-laminated win cards package (\$12.95 plus \$2 S&H) call 1-800-WINNERS.

**Masuga Named Mathematics Regional Teacher of Year**

\*Continued from page 13

the school services or facilities although they are not enrolled as full-time students. The schools had 415 full-time students in September 2004. Fewer students means less state aid for the district.

"We've cut our budget about as low as we can get it," Mr. Goehmann said.

**Budget Amendments Adopted**

The Board adopted budget amendments that added \$12,240 to the General Fund budget deficit of \$62,492. Trustees adopted \$3,429,384 in revenues and \$3,504,116 in expenditures, leaving \$74,732 in expenditures not covered by the this year's projected revenues. Money from the district's fund equity will be used to cover the deficit, which was caused primarily by funding reductions in federal and state assistance grants provided for school programs. A food service deficit created another added expense, as \$3,397 of General Fund money will be used to cover the food service expenses. Trustees at last month's meeting elected to raise meal prices to help cover the

deficit and increasing expenses, but the new revenue from the higher prices apparently still won't be enough. The General Fund will also cover a \$4,178 deficit in the athletic fund. The district is projected to spend \$96,066 and take in \$91,888 in revenues.

**High School Report**

High School Principal Randy Schaedig announced that Valerie Masuga has been named the Mathematics Regional Teacher of the Year by the Michigan Council of Teachers. She was expected to receive the award from the Council last week.

A group of German students visited the school last month through an exchange program based in Holland. They stayed at the First Union Church and spent two class periods at Cedarville High School with a guide from the school.

"It was a real interesting couple of hours with them here," Mr. Schaedig commented.

He spoke to trustees about graduation requirements, and submitted a report comparing Cedarville High School's graduation require-

ments to 292 other schools' requirements.

Of those schools, requirements were predominantly four years of English language arts, three years of mathematics and social studies, two years of science, and no language, family and consumer science, or art requirements. Cedarville mirrored most of the schools that responded, with the exception of requiring three years of English and three years of science. According to the report, there does not seem to be any consistency in academic requirements, nor do the technology requirements of one year or less seem adequate enough to meet the changing work and educational environment.

"I think there will be a real movement toward aligning schools with each other and making the requirements more consistent," Mr. Schaedig said. "I think there must be some more standardization coming down the pike."

**Elementary School Report**

Principal Eric Cardwell reported that the school raised \$1,818 for hurricane relief through various fundraisers. The money was given

to the American Red Cross last week.

During the school year 2004-2005, every parent or guardian of an elementary school student attended either the fall or spring conferences, or both. Mr. Cardwell assembled a historical account of parent participation in student-led conferences in preparation for an Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District presentation. Participation seems to have increased with the introduction of student-led conferences. In 2003-2004, for instance, 89.4 percent of adults participated in traditional parent-teacher conferences, while 95.8 percent participated in student-led conferences.

Homework laboratory, an after-school session that provides students with an instructor to help with assignments, started Thursday, October 20. Special Education teacher Becky Meyers monitors the session and provides assistance when necessary. She is joined by tutor Judy Hamel. Homework laboratory is available each Thursday, from 3:06 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

"Would you shoot a ruffed grouse running on the ground?" That was a question that came up while a group of Michigan bird hunters were discussing the merits of their favorite gamebirds.

Aside from a shaking of heads, nobody would admit to doing such a thing until one spoke up: "I always wait until after they stop running."

Most bird hunters, of course, consider it's all part of the hunting challenge to give the gamebird an opportunity first to escape the shot pattern. Few hunters are fully prepared for the explosive takeoff of a ruffed grouse, even though these birds rarely fly as fast as might be imagined.

The flight of an upland gamebird depends on a number of conditions. When unmolested, its flight is slower than when it's aware of danger close by. So, just how fast can a gamebird fly?

Surprising figures on the flight of unmolested gamebirds have been computed by a number of researchers, although the "average" can vary according to conditions. The ruffed grouse is among the birds that fly at 41 miles per hour. The same can be said of quail and prairie

chickens, pheasants, jacksnipe, and a number of the ducks. Included are the black duck, mallard, spoonbill, wood duck, plus widgeon, and gadwall.

Among other waterfowl, some have been clocked at 45 miles per hour, including swans and Canada geese. The little green-winged teal is able to zing by at 79 miles per hour, while the redhead duck can hit speeds of 87. Surprisingly, the blue-winged teal is capable of an 89, while the canvasback has managed to flap by at 94, making it the fastest gamebird in the United States.

None of these figures remains accurate under some conditions. Flush a little jacksnipe on a windy day and it will look like a rocket blasting off in its twisting flight. Nobody wants to brag about marksmanship at such times, as the birds have a lot of air around them. If the scattergun charge fails to arrive on the target, who can have a real excuse?

Mourning doves, which are legally hunted in a majority of states without endangering them, have a known speed of just 34 miles per hour. So does the curlew, which is now fully protected in



all states, although it was once hunted along with other birds. Wildlife agencies keep a careful watch on game and non-game birds and if any seems to be in danger from over-hunting, they go on a protected list.

While the canvasback is considered the champion of flying gamebirds, its 94 miles per hour is no match for some of the hawks, which are fully protected. When a big predatory hawk zeroes in on any other bird and dives on it from the heights, it makes the canvasback look like a slowpoke.



**Environmental Summit Planned for St. Marys River Nov. 10**

A fifth annual Environmental Summit will explore the status of the St. Marys River environment

Thursday, November 10, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Cislser Center at Lake Superior State University

(LSSU) at Sault Ste. Marie. The Binational Public Advisory Council and Lake Superior State University Biology Department are hosting the event, which is open to the public.

how individuals can get involved with those groups and provides a chance to talk one-on-one with group leaders.

"Each year, the summit brings together units of government, government agencies, citizens' groups, and individual residents from both sides of the river to review the status of environmental conditions and to discuss opportunities to work together to further improve our shared environment," said Gregory Zimmerman, Ph.D., of LSSU's Biology Department.

The second part of the summit is an open discussion session led by a panel of speakers. This year's topic is "A Sustainable Sault."

The summit starts with an information fair at which local environmental groups and agencies display their activities, show

"This discussion is the first of a series of workshop discussions about how we can be a community that provides economic opportunities but also preserve the features that make the Sault area an amazing place to live," Mr. Zimmerman said.

Any group interested in reserving space for the information fair should contact Lora Premo in the BPAC Resource Office, [stmarysriver@LSSU.EDU](mailto:stmarysriver@LSSU.EDU). There is no charge for display space.

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**GOODWILL ANTIQUES**

**SHAW** Shotwell-Gustafson Pavilion, Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan. Sat. Nov. 12, 10-6, Sun. Nov. 13, 11-5. Admission \$10.00. Fifty Premier Antique Dealers, Café, Goodwill Booth. 248-909-1492

**WEEKEND EVENTS**  
**FALL CHEVY/VETTEFEST** November 5-6, 2005. All Chevrolet & Corvette Swap Meet, Car Show and Sale. McCormick Place North Building Chicago, IL 9AM-6PM Saturday & Sunday. Call 708-563-4300 - 8AM-5PM M-F. [midamericapromotions.com](http://midamericapromotions.com)  
**SHIPSHEWANA ON THE ROAD** Soaring Eagle Casino, Mt. Pleasant, MI. Saturday, November 12 from 9 am - 6 pm. Sunday, November 13 from 10 am - 5 pm. Have your picture taken with live reindeer Sunday noon to 4 pm. \$3.00 Adults, children 12 and under Free. More info: 269-979-8888 [www.ShipshewanaOnTheRoad.com](http://www.ShipshewanaOnTheRoad.com)  
**SHIPSHEWANA ON THE ROAD** Kellogg Arena, Battle Creek, MI. Saturday, Nov. 5 from 9 am - 6 pm. Sunday, Nov. 6 from 10 am - 5 pm. \$3.00 Adults, children 12 and under Free. More info: 269-979-8888 [www.ShipshewanaOnTheRoad.com](http://www.ShipshewanaOnTheRoad.com)

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**News From Mackinac Island**

\*Continued from page 21

They will spend the winter months in Fort Myers Beach, Florida.

Joyce and David Dodge are spending the winter in Naples, Florida.

We miss all our many friends and sincerely hope that they will enjoy a happy healthy winter.

I was pleasantly surprised this past week to receive a visit from summer cottagers of Hubbard's Annex, who were spending a week at their Island home, leaving their winter Florida residence in North Palm Beach. Rosalie and Jacob Roush, owners of the former Gunn Cottage, were escaping from Hurricane Wilma. Their daughter, Rebecca, is a senior at Wellesley

College. We give them a warm welcome to Mackinac. Hopefully, they're back safe and sound in their Florida home.

Shortly after Ann and Tim Timmons left for their home in Palm City, Florida, we received a note from them, postmarked Atlanta, Georgia. The Timmons' did get to escape Hurricane Wilma. They flew from Atlanta to London, where they met their son, Mark Timmons, and family. They boarded the *Queen Elizabeth II* for a 16-day cruise in the Mediterranean Sea.

Loretta and Tony Spata are now residing in their winter home in Traverse City.

I hope everyone gets some rest and relaxation.

**Winter Meetings Set on Mackinac Island**

Mackinac Island City Council will consolidate monthly committee meetings during the winter. The decision was made during council's regular meeting Wednesday, October 26.

Council will continue to meet every other Wednesday at 5 p.m. The Ordinance Committee will meet before Council, though the meeting start time will vary from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. depending on its agenda and on any special meetings that might be scheduled that day.

The Street Committee, Finance Committee, and Public Safety Committee will meet the second Thursday of every month at 4 p.m.

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